

**REMARKS**

This paper is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated June 29, 2007. In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment the Examiner stated the Amendment filed on April 11, 2007 failed to address 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

Specifically, the Examiner stated the Amendment filed April 11, 2007 fails to address the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of dependent Claim 3-4 based on *Zdun* in view of *Houghton*. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 3-4 are allowable at least for the reasons described in the Amendment filed April 11, 2007 (see page 9, lines 20-23) regarding independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 3-4.

In addition, the Examiner stated the Amendment filed April 11, 2007 fails to address the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of dependent Claim 12-13 based on *Zdun* in view of *Rees* and in further view of *Houghton*. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 12-13 are allowable at least for the reasons described in the Amendment filed April 11, 2007 (see page 11, line 22-page 12, line 2) regarding independent Claim 11, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 12-13.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,  
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

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/D. Kent Stier/

Date: July 11, 2007

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